



NEWS RELEASE

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NEBRASKA STUDENTS CONTINUE TO IMPROVE READING, MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE SCORES

The new 2013 test results show Nebraska public school students scored higher on their state reading, mathematics and science tests than in previous years.

More than three of every four students or 77 percent meet or exceeded state reading standards, compared to 69 percent in 2010.

The new mathematics test results show 69 percent of the students tested proficient, compared to 63 percent in 2011.

This year 70 percent of the students were proficient in science, a 3 percent increase from last year. Nebraska standards and tests were revised over the past five years with the goal of ensuring Nebraska students are career and college ready by the time they graduate from high school. This year, four years of reading results, three years of mathematics scores and two years of science scores are available. Fourth grade writing scores are available for the first time this year under a recently revised testing system.

Here is a breakdown showing student progress:

Nebraska State Accountability: NeSA Scores
Percent Proficient: Meets/Exceeds Combined
Combined Results for All Grades Tested

SUBJECT	2010	2011	2012	2013
Reading	69%	72%	74%	77%
Mathematics		63%	68%	69%
Science			67%	70%
Writing				68%*

* Writing scores for 4th grade were reported this year for the first time under a new testing system so state averages should not be compared to past years' averages.

Reading, mathematics, science and writing test results for districts and school buildings by grade level are available at <http://www.education.ne.gov/>. Writing test results were released earlier but are also available in this report.

The performance scores released today are considered the initial results since they could change slightly before the scores are finalized in September.

Students in grades three through eight and the 11th grade were tested in reading and mathematics. Students in grades five, eight and 11 were tested in science, and students in grades four, eight and 11 took the writing test. Of those students, 99 percent participated in the tests. And 96 percent of the students took their tests online. Overall, about 375,000 tests were administered between March 25 and May 3 to about 155,000 students.

Parents will receive a report on their child's scores from their local school district soon. Materials to help parents help their child with reading, mathematics and science are available through the Nebraska Department of Education's homepage at www.education.ne.gov.